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General Assembly

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Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 49
Culture of peace

Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan: revised draft resolution

International Day of Nowruz*

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the achievement of international cooperation in the economic, social and cultural fields,

Recalling its resolution 56/6 of 9 November 2001 on the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations,

Recalling also the Declaration of Principles of International Cultural Cooperation, adopted on 4 November 1966 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[1]

Affirming the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, adopted on 2 November 2001 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[2] including its appeal for greater solidarity on the basis of recognition of cultural diversity, awareness of the unity of humankind and the development of intercultural exchanges,

Taking into consideration the International Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage adopted on 17 October 2003 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[3] and recognizing the importance of safeguarding the intangible

* Nowruz means new day and is celebrated on 21 March of each year; its spelling and pronunciation may vary according to the country.

[1] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Fourteenth Session, Paris, 1966, Resolutions*, chap. IV, resolution 8.

[2] Ibid., *Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October-3 November 2001*, vol. 1 and corrigendum: *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 25, annex 1.

[3] Ibid., *Thirty-second Session, Paris, 29 September-17 October 2003*, vol. 1: *Resolutions*, chap. IV, resolution 32.

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cultural heritage, inter alia, social practices, rituals and festive events, at both the national and international levels,

Considering the interdependence between the intangible cultural heritage and the tangible cultural and natural heritage,

Welcoming the inclusion of Nowruz into the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 30 September 2009,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome, adopted at a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly,[4] which recognizes, inter alia, that all cultures and civilizations contribute to the enrichment of humankind,

Stressing the importance of raising public awareness through education, media and cultural activities in order to foster respect for national cultures, world cultural heritage and cultural diversity, which are essential for strengthening global peace and implementing international cooperation,

Reaffirming that civilizational achievements constitute the collective heritage of mankind, providing a source of inspiration and progress for humanity at large,

Emphasizing the need to achieve an objective understanding of all civilizations and enhance constructive interaction and cooperative engagement among civilizations,

Noting that Nowruz, the day of vernal equinox, is celebrated as the beginning of the new year by more than 300 million people all around the world and has been celebrated for over 3,000 years in the Balkans, the Black Sea Basin, the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East and other regions,

Stressing the importance of processes of mutual cultural enrichment and the necessity of promoting civilizational exchanges, which facilitate the development of international cooperation,

Mindful of the ever-increasing significance and relevance of a culture of living in harmony with nature, which is inherent in all civilizations in today's world,

Mindful also that Nowruz, as the embodiment of the unity of cultural heritage and centuries-long traditions, plays a significant role in strengthening the ties among peoples based on mutual respect and the ideals of peace and good neighbourhood,

Bearing in mind that the foundations of the traditions and rituals of Nowruz reflect the features of the cultural and ancient customs of the civilizations of East and West, which influenced those civilizations through the interchange of human values,

Noting the orientation of Nowruz towards the affirmation of life in harmony with nature, the awareness of the inseparable link between constructive labour and natural cycles of renewal and the solicitous and respectful attitude towards natural sources of life,

1. *Recognizes* 21 March as the international day of Nowruz;

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[4] See resolution 60/1.

2. *Welcomes* the efforts of Member States where Nowruz is celebrated to preserve and develop the culture and traditions related to Nowruz;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to make efforts to raise awareness about Nowruz and to organize annual events in commemoration of this festivity, as appropriate;

4. *Also calls upon* Member States where Nowruz is celebrated to study the history of the origin and traditions of this festivity with a view to disseminating knowledge about the Nowruz heritage among the international community;

5. *Invites* Member States, United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and other international and intergovernmental organizations, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as regional and non-governmental organizations and funds, to participate in events organized by States where Nowruz is celebrated.

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